

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 8 are pending and claims 1 to 8 stand allowed as per Supplemental Notice of Allowance mailed on 15 March 2006.

Pursuant of 35 USC § 120, the amendment to the specification reflects a priority claim to International application PCT/EP03/08644.

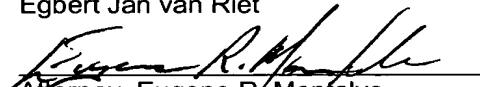
The claim to benefit from priority was timely made in the original Utility Patent Application Transmittal Form, under box 5, and also in the executed declaration as filed on 20 May 2004, and the benefit claim was recognized by the Office as shown by its inclusion in the filing receipt mailed on June 7, 2004. Under these circumstances, as stated in MPEP 201.11V, the present amendment of the specification to include a reference to the earlier application does not require a petition under 37 CFR 1.17(t) nor payment of a surcharge.

However, attention is drawn to an error regarding the representation of the filing date of earlier application PCT/EP03/08644, which is stated to be 01/08/2003 but in reality is 1 August 2003. The source of this error is likely related to different conventions in Europe (where the Applicant resides) compared to the United States of America, regarding stating dates in alphanumerical format.

An updated filing receipt is kindly requested, showing the corrected filing date of 08/01/2003.

Respectfully submitted,

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